



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Amendment**

LCO No. 7392

**\*HB0593207392HDO\***

Offered by:

REP. MUSHINSKY, 85<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. MEGNA, 97<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. ORANGE, 48<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. PAWELKIEWICZ, 49<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. ROY, 119<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. SHARKEY, 88<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. WITKOS, 17<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5932

File No. 721

Cal. No. 249

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING  
AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL  
CONTROL OFFICERS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2006*) For the purposes of  
4 sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act, "animal control officer" includes a  
5 regional animal control officer, assistant regional animal control officer  
6 and municipal animal control officer, as defined in section 22-327 of  
7 the general statutes, and an assistant municipal animal control officer.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2006*) (a) The Commissioner of  
9 Agriculture shall develop a training program, within available  
10 appropriations, for certification of animal control officers. The program  
11 shall consist of not less than eighty hours of training including, but not

12 limited to: (1) State and federal law of arrest, search and seizure; (2)  
13 state law relating to animals; (3) the basics of investigation; (4) report  
14 writing and record keeping; (5) shelter or pound standards; (6) disease  
15 recognition; (7) euthanasia policy; (8) ethics and professionalism in  
16 dealing with the public; (9) cruelty and neglect investigations,  
17 including, but not limited to, blood sports and cults; (10) animal bite  
18 and vicious animal investigations; (11) officer safety and loss  
19 prevention; (12) animal care, identification, behavior, handling and  
20 capture and restraint techniques; (13) overview of the legal system,  
21 court structure and terminology; (14) warrants; (15) civil liability  
22 issues; and (16) for animal control officers employed by municipalities  
23 that permit officers to carry firearms, weapons training.

24 (b) The commissioner shall approve or develop an examination,  
25 within available appropriations, designed to test proficiency in the  
26 subjects covered by the training program developed pursuant to  
27 subsection (a) of this section. The examination may be written, oral,  
28 practical or a combination thereof.

29 (c) The commissioner may approve, reject or revoke approval of any  
30 animal control officer training courses including, but not limited to,  
31 courses provided by the National Animal Control Association, the  
32 American Humane Association, the Police Officer Standards and  
33 Training Council or the Humane Society of the United States, for  
34 inclusion in the training programs developed pursuant to this section.

35 (d) The commissioner may, from time to time, amend or alter the  
36 training programs and the examination the commissioner develops  
37 pursuant to this section.

38 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) Each person appointed as an  
39 animal control officer after July 1, 2005, shall be certified by the  
40 Commissioner of Agriculture not later than four years after such  
41 appointment. One-half of the certification shall be completed not later  
42 than two years after such appointment. The provisions of section  
43 7-294d of the general statutes shall not apply to animal control officers

44 appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the general  
45 statutes.

46 (b) The commissioner shall waive the requirement of satisfactory  
47 completion of the training requirements for candidates who have  
48 served as animal control officers in the state for a period of five years  
49 since July 1, 1991.

50 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of sections 1 to 4, inclusive,  
51 of this act, the commissioner may decline to issue a certificate if (1) the  
52 applicant falsified any document in order to obtain or renew the  
53 certificate, (2) the applicant has been convicted of a felony, (3) the  
54 applicant has been found not guilty of a felony by reason of mental  
55 disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13 of the general statutes, (4)  
56 the applicant has been convicted of a violation of subsection (c) of  
57 section 21a-279 of the general statutes or section 29-9 of the general  
58 statutes, or (5) the applicant has been refused issuance of a certificate  
59 or similar authorization or has had a certificate or other similar  
60 authorization canceled or revoked by another jurisdiction on grounds  
61 that would authorize cancellation or revocation under the provisions  
62 of this subsection.

63 (d) The commissioner may revoke any certificate if (1) the certificate  
64 was issued by administrative error, (2) the certificate was obtained  
65 through misrepresentation or fraud, (3) the holder falsified any  
66 document in order to obtain or renew any certificate, (4) the holder has  
67 been convicted of a felony, (5) the holder has been found not guilty of a  
68 felony by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13  
69 of the general statutes, (6) the holder has been convicted of a violation  
70 of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 of the general statutes or section  
71 29-9 of the general statutes, or (7) the holder has been refused issuance  
72 of a certificate or similar authorization or has had the certificate or  
73 other authorization canceled or revoked by another jurisdiction on  
74 grounds that would authorize cancellation or revocation under the  
75 provisions of this subsection. Whenever the commissioner believes  
76 there is a reasonable basis for cancellation or revocation of the

77 certificate of an animal control officer, the commissioner shall give the  
78 holder of the certificate notice and an opportunity for a hearing, in  
79 accordance with the provisions of section 4-182 of the general statutes.  
80 Any officer whose certification is revoked pursuant to this section may  
81 reapply for certification no sooner than two years after the date on  
82 which the revocation order becomes final.

83 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2006*) (a) Certification of a person  
84 as an animal control officer shall expire after two years if the person  
85 has not been employed as a municipal animal control officer during  
86 that period, unless the person is an officer who has been on leave of  
87 absence. Upon reemployment of a person as an animal control officer,  
88 such officer shall apply for certification and become certified in a  
89 manner provided by section 2 of this act.

90 (b) A municipality may appoint a temporary animal control officer  
91 who does not hold a certificate pursuant to this act for a period not  
92 greater than thirty days per calendar year. The Commissioner of  
93 Agriculture may grant a one time thirty-day extension for such  
94 temporary animal control officer. The commissioner may encourage  
95 municipalities to share the services of animal control officers in the  
96 event a temporary animal control officer is needed by a municipality.

97 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2006*) The Commissioner of  
98 Agriculture may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions  
99 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of  
100 sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act, including, but not limited to,  
101 establishing procedures for applying for certification as an animal  
102 control officer.

103 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2006*) No municipality shall be  
104 liable for compensation to any municipal animal control officer whose  
105 certification under section 3 or 4 of this act has been revoked or  
106 expired during the period of such revocation or expiration."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2006</i>	New section